IN THE CLAIMS:

1.   (cancelled)

2.   (previously amended)   A mail piece tracking system including:

   A.   one or more servers for linking mail piece delivery status information with user identifiers, associating with the delivery status information for a given mail piece a message from the mail piece sender, producing listings of the delivery status information for mail pieces directed to the respective users, and   including a link to the message in the listing of the delivery status information; and

   B.   one or more browsers or client executables through which the respective users associated with the user identifiers access the delivery status information.

3.   (previously amended)   A mail piece tracking system including:

   A.   one or more servers for linking mail piece delivery status information with user identifiers,   associating with the delivery status information for a given mail piece related transaction information,   producing listings of the delivery status information for mail pieces directed to the respective users, and including   a link to the transaction information in the listing of the delivery status information;

   B.   one or more browsers or client executables through which the respective users associated with the user identifiers access the delivery status information.

4.   (previously amended)   A mail piece tracking system including:

   A.   one or more servers for linking mail piece delivery status information with user identifiers, associating information relating to the contents of the mail

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piece with the delivery status information, producing listings of the delivery status information for mail pieces directed to the respective users, and including the information relating to the contents in a listing of the mail piece delivery status information; and

B.   one or more browsers or client executables through which the respective users associated with the user identifiers access the delivery status information.

5.   (cancelled)

6.   (cancelled)

7.   (currently amended) A mail piece tracking system including:

A.   one or more servers for linking mail piece delivery status information with user identifiers producing listings of the delivery status information for mail pieces directed to the respective users, and including in the mail piece delivery status information

i.   a sender identifier,

ii.   a mail type identifier,

iii.   a delivery service identifier, and

iv.   links to on-line information provided by or associated with the sender.

8.   (cancelled)

9.   (previously amended) The method of tracking and tracing mail pieces of claim 10 wherein

a.   the step of linking mail piece delivery status information to the user identifiers includes updating the information, and

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    b.   the step of providing a listing of mail piece delivery status information includes providing in the list the updated information.

10.   (previously amended) A method for tracking and tracing mail pieces including the steps of:

    A.   associating respective users with user identifiers;

    B.   associating with the identified users mail pieces directed to or sent by the respective users;

    C.   linking mail piece delivery status information relating to the respective mail pieces to the respective user identifiers, the delivery status information including information that identifies the senders of the respective mail pieces that are directed to the identified users; and

    D.   providing to a given user a listing of the respective mail pieces and the mail piece delivery status information that is linked to the user identifier that corresponds to the given user.

11.   (original) The method of tracking and tracing mail pieces of claim 10 wherein the step of linking mail piece delivery status information with the user identifiers includes associating therewith messages from the respective senders.

12. (cancelled)

13. (original) The method of tracking and tracing mail pieces of claim 11 wherein the step of linking mail piece delivery status information to the user identifiers includes associating therewith messages from the respective delivery services.

14. (cancelled)

15. (cancelled)

16. (cancelled)

17. (cancelled)

18. (cancelled)

19. (cancelled)

20. (previously amended) A method for tracking and tracing mail pieces including the steps of:

    A.   associating respective users with user identifiers;

    B.   associating with the identified users respective mail pieces directed to or sent by the respective users;

    C.   linking mail piece delivery status information relating to the respective mail pieces to the respective user identifiers, the mail piece delivery status information including the source of a given mail piece; and

    D.   providing to a given user a listing of the respective mail pieces associated with the given user and the mail piece delivery status information that is linked to the user identifier that is associated with the given user and further providing a graphical interface connected to notify the given user of the delivery status of the respective mail pieces, the interface being configured to display information concerning the source of a given mail piece.

21. (previously amended) A method for tracking and tracing mail pieces including the steps of:

    A.   associating respective users with user identifiers;

B.   associating with the identified users respective mail pieces directed to or sent by the respective users;

C.   linking mail piece delivery status information relating to the respective mail pieces to the respective user identifiers, the mail piece delivery status information including information concerning the contents of a given mail piece; and

D.   providing to a given user a listing of the respective mail pieces and the mail piece delivery status information that is linked to the user identifier that corresponds to the given user and further providing a graphical interface connected to notify the given user of the delivery status of the respective mail pieces, the interface being configured to provide the information concerning the contents of a given mail piece.

22. (previously amended) A method for tracking and tracing mail pieces including the steps of:

A.   associating respective users with respective user identifiers;

B.   associating with the identified users respective mail pieces directed to or sent by the respective users;

C.   linking mail piece delivery status information relating to the respective mail pieces to the respective user identifiers, the delivery status information including images of at least a portion of the contents of the respective mail pieces; and

D.   providing to a given user a listing of the respective mail pieces and the mail piece delivery status information that is linked to the user identifier that corresponds to the given user and providing a graphical interface connected to notify the given user of the delivery status of the associated respective mail pieces, the interface being configured to provide the image of at least a portion of the contents of a given mail piece.

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23. (previously amended) A method for tracking and tracing mail pieces including the steps of:

A. associating respective users with respective user identifiers;

B. associating with the identified users respective mail pieces directed to or sent by the respective users;

C. linking mail piece delivery status information relating to the respective mail pieces to the respective user identifiers, the mail piece delivery status information including images of information associated with respective mail pieces; and

D. providing to a given user a listing of the respective mail pieces and the mail piece delivery status information that is linked to the user identifier that corresponds to the given user and providing a graphical interface connected to notify the given user of the delivery status of the associated respective mail pieces, the interface being configured to provide the image of information associated with a given mail piece.

24. (original) The method of tracking and tracing mail pieces of claim 23 in which the interface is configured to provide one or more messages associated with a given mail piece.

25. (previously amended) A method for tracking and tracing mail pieces including the steps of:

A. associating respective users with respective user identifiers;

B. associating with the identified users respective mail pieces directed to or sent by the respective users;

C. linking mail piece delivery status information relating to the associated respective mail pieces to the respective user identifiers, the mail piece delivery status information including one or more links to information provided by senders of the respective mail pieces; and

D.   providing to a given user a listing of the associated respective mail pieces and the mail piece delivery status information that is linked to the user identifier that corresponds to the given user and providing a graphical interface connected to notify the given user of the delivery status of the associated respective mail pieces, the interface being configured to provide one or more links to the information provided by a sender of a given mail piece.

26. (original) The method of tracking and tracing mail pieces of claim 25 wherein the information provided by the sender includes one or more of transaction history, account balance, and payment option information.

27. (cancelled)

28. (previously amended) Computer-readable memory comprising computer program instructions for use in providing mail piece tracking and tracing, the instructions when executed causing:

A.   one or more servers to

link mail piece delivery status information with user identifiers,

associate with the delivery status information for a given mail piece a message from the mail piece sender,

produce listings of the delivery status information for mail pieces directed to the respective users that correspond to the user identifiers, and include a link to the message in the listing of the delivery status information for the given mail piece; and

B.   one or more browsers to provide access to the listings of the delivery status information linked to a given user identifier.

29. (previously amended) Computer-readable memory comprising computer program instructions for use in providing mail piece tracking and tracing, the instructions when executed causing:

    A.   one or more servers to

        link mail piece delivery status information with user identifiers,

        associate with the delivery status information for a given mail piece related transaction information,

        produce listings of the delivery status information for mail pieces directed to the respective users that correspond to the user identifiers, and

        include a link to the transaction information in the listing of the delivery status information for the given mail piece; and

    B.   one or more browsers to provide access to the delivery status information linked to a given user identifier.

30. (previously amended) Computer-readable memory comprising computer program instructions for use in providing mail piece tracking and tracing, the instructions when executed causing:

    A.   one or more servers to

        link mail piece delivery status information with user identifiers,

        associate information relating to the contents of a given mail piece with the delivery status information,

        produce listings of the mail piece delivery status information for mail pieces directed to the respective users that correspond to the user identifiers, and

        include the information relating to the contents in the listing of the mail piece delivery status information for the given mail piece; and

    B.   one or more browsers to provide access to the delivery status information linked to a given user identifier.

31. (cancelled)

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32. (previously amended) Computer-readable memory comprising computer program instructions for use in providing mail piece tracking and tracing, the instructions when executed causing:

    A.   one or more servers to

        link mail piece delivery status information with user identifiers, the delivery status information for a given mail piece including

            a. a sender identifier,

            b. a mail type identifier,

            c. a delivery service identifier, and

            d. related messages from the sender and the delivery service, and

produce listings of the delivery status information for mail pieces directed to the respective users that correspond to the user identifiers; and

    B.   one or more browsers to provide access to the delivery status information linked to a given user identifier.

33. (cancelled)

34. (withdrawn) A method of operating a computer system, the method including the steps of:

    A. associating a given user session with a user identifier;

    B. retaining messages relating to the status of the session at a server and including in each message a message sequence number and an attribute that is associated with the user identifier; and

    C. using the messages to continue the session from a point at which the session last communicated with the server, in response to the user identifier being presented at a node that communicates with the server.

35. (withdrawn) The method of claim 34 further including a step of maintaining an index of the messages, the index being sorted by the attribute that is associated with the user identifier.

36. (withdrawn) The method of claim 35 further including

    i.   a step of communicating through the session and providing information relating to a mailing label;

    ii.   in the step of retaining messages retaining messages that include the information relating to the mailing label;

    iii.   in the step of continuing the session presenting the retained information relating to the mailing label; and

    iv.   a step of ending the session by printing the mailing label in accordance with the retained information.

37. (withdrawn) The method of claim 36 further including

    i.   in the step of communicating through the session providing information relating to postage for a mail piece;

    ii.   in the step of retaining messages retaining messages that include the information relating to the postage;

    iii.   in the step of continuing the session presenting the retained information relating to the postage; and

    iv.   in the step of ending the session printing the postage in accordance with the retained information.

38. (withdrawn) The method of claim 35 further including

    a.   a step of communicating through the session and providing information relating to postage for a mail piece;

b. in the step of retaining messages retaining messages that include the information relating to the postage;

c. in the step of continuing the session presenting the retained information relating to the postage; and

d. a step of ending the session by printing the postage in accordance with the retained information.

39. (withdrawn)   A method of operating a computer network including the steps of:

A. associating a user session with a user identifier that is presented to gain access to information maintained by the network from a first node that communicates with the network;

B. retaining a queue of messages relating to the user session and associating the queue with the user identifier; and

C. in response to the user identifier being later presented at the first node or a second node that communicates over the network, continuing the user session at the first or second node by using the messages to present the session at the point at which the session last communicated with the server.

40. (withdrawn)   The method of claim 36 wherein the step of retaining a queue of messages includes indexing the messages by the user identifier.

41. (withdrawn)   The method of claim 37 wherein the step of retaining a queue of messages further includes maintaining the queue at each of a plurality of interconnected nodes, a given one of the interconnected nodes at which the user identifier is provided presenting the user session at the point at which the session last communicated with the server.

42. (withdrawn) The method of claim 38 further including conducting the user session by communicating over the network using a browser or a client executable.

43. (withdrawn) The method of claim 37 wherein the step of presenting the user identifier includes providing a machine-readable code to a scanner that communicates with the node.

44. (withdrawn) A method of operating a postal service computer system, the method including the steps of:

    A. associating a given user postal mailing label session with a user identifier;

    B. retaining messages relating to the status of the session at a server and including in each message a message sequence number and an attribute that is associated with the user identifier, the messages further including mailing label information provided through the session; and

    C. using the messages to continue the session from a point at which the session last communicated with the server by presenting the mailing label information provided through the session, in response to the user identifier being presented at a node that communicates with the server.

45. (withdrawn) The method of claim 44 further including a step of maintaining an index of the messages, the index being sorted by the attribute that is associated with the user identifier.

46. (withdrawn) The method of claim 45 further including the step of ending the continued session by printing the mailing label in accordance with the retained information.

47. (withdrawn) The method of claim 46 further including

a. in the step of retaining messages retaining messages that include the information re-lating to postage;

b. in the step of continuing the session presenting the retained information relating to the postage; and

c. in the step of ending the session printing the postage in accordance with the retained information.